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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant : Edwin Madison, *et. al.*  
Serial No. : 10/099,700  
Filed : March 13, 2002  
Cust. No. : 20985  
Title : *NUCLEIC ACID MOLECULES ENCODING A TRANSMEMBRANE SERINE  
PROTEASE 7, THE ENCODED POLYPEPTIDES AND METHODS BASED  
THEREON*

Art Unit : 1652  
Examiner : William W. Moore  
Conf. No. : 4309

**Mail Stop RCE**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT  
AND REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE)**

Dear Sir:

This Preliminary Amendment, which is responsive to the Office Action, mailed September 9, 2004, is filed with a Request for Continued Examination. Entry of the following amendments and consideration of the following remarks are respectfully requested.

**Amendments to the claims** are reflected in the listing of the claims, which begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 13 of this paper.

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I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited with the United States Postal "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" Service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450.

Stephanie Seidman